Memorial of Elizabeth C. Dunn.
1911

MEMORIAL

OF

ELIZABETH C. DUNN

PHILADELPHIA:
FRIENDS' BOOK STORE, No. 304 Arch Street.
1911.

MEMORIAL

OF

ELIZABETH C. DUNN

PHILADELPHIA:
FRIENDS' BOOK STORE, No. 304 Arch Street.

1911

At Burlington and Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Friends, held at Burlington, N. J., on the twenty-eighth of Second Month, 1911.

A Memorial concerning our late beloved friend, Elizabeth C. Dunn, prepared by Chesterfield Monthly Meeting, was read in joint session and approved. It has revived the influence of her gentle spirit and upright Christian life among us. The meeting directs that this minute be signed by the Clerks, and forwarded with the Memorial to the Representative Meeting.

Wm. B. Kirkbride,
Rachel E. Allinson,
Clerks for the day.

A MEMORIAL

Issued by Chesterfield Monthly Meeting of Friends, New Jersey, concerning our beloved friend, ELIZABETH C. DUNN, *who departed this life the twenty-second of Ninth Month, 1910, in the eighty-seventh year of her age.*

The death of our beloved friend, Elizabeth C. Dunn, has freshly recalled the precious influence of her ministry in this meeting, and we desire to record our testimony to her Christian life and character.

She was a daughter of Richard and Susanna Chambers, and was born in New Castle County, Delaware, Fifth Month 17th, 1824; her youth was spent there, and in after life she loved to revert to and revisit her early home among the hills and streams of that beautiful neighborhood.

After reaching maturity she taught school for some years, during the last four of which she was in charge of the reading classes at

Westtown. For many years afterwards she was a valued member of the Westtown Committee.

In the spring of 1866 she was married to Philip P. Dunn, after which she resided at Trenton, N. J., for more than twenty-five years. Their hospitable home was a favorite stopping-place for many servants of our Lord and Master when traveling from meeting to meeting on Gospel errands; and here they often rested and were refreshed.

This home was broken up at the death of her husband, and the next few years were spent with a brother at Camden, N. J. After his death she removed to Media, Pa., where she resided during the remainder of her life; but her membership was retained in Chesterfield Monthly, and Burlington and Bucks Quarterly Meetings, which she continued to attend as regularly as her advancing years would permit.

Her frequent and acceptable appearances in the ministry were followed by the acknowledgment of her gift in the year 1870. On several occasions she was given minutes for service in other meetings, with liberty to visit the families of Friends and others as way

opened; and her loving labors on these occasions were long remembered as precious seasons of Divine favor.

In the summer of 1882 she accompanied her husband to Europe, and embraced the opportunity to visit the little meetings of Friends at Congenies, France, and Minden, Germany. The religious sincerity of these isolated members of our Society aroused her warm sympathy and she had loving service among them.

During most of her long life, she lived within the limits of small meetings, where her tender, gentle spirit and comforting and encouraging words endeared her to her friends and the surrounding neighborhood. We believe few persons have had more love for their fellow-beings, or expressed that love in word or deed with greater simplicity. In the words quoted at her funeral, "She ofttimes refreshed us."

She seemed never to forget the friends she had once made. In a letter written in 1908, when the infirmities of age kept her much at home, she wrote: "Having much time to myself, I go over the whole list in loving thought —our children, the nieces and nephews, old

friends and new friends, and Friends of the meetings," adding, "of course my shortcomings rise up like spectres sometimes, but I have had too many mercies to dwell upon them longer than as they serve to show how miserable poor human nature is, and the necessity of asking help for every time of need. Wonderful, truly, is the mercy of a long-suffering Saviour, and sweet the visitations of the Spirit of his grace."

With the unquestioning faith of a little child she frequently used the expression, "I was talking to Heavenly Father about it," and in the same explicit dependence on Divine wisdom she accepted the chastenings of temporal loss and heavy sorrow, while under them her Christian life broadened and developed with her advancing years.

The only account she left of her religious experience is the following, dated Fourth Month 22nd, 1889: "The death of a sister of my schoolmate and intimate friend which occurred when I was about ten years of age, affected my mind with sorrowful convictions for sin. Until my twenty-ninth year many alternations of sinning and repenting occur to my mind; many times of forgetfulness and

self-indulgence, followed by sorrow and the forming of good resolutions; and often I experienced a sweet sense of the mercy and goodness of my Heavenly Father and the merits of his dear Son, with thankfulness that the Holy Spirit continued to convict of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. In my twenty-ninth year my health seemed to break down; this was a great trial to me, as it seemed as though I should never again be able to fulfil the accustomed round of duties. Much leisure for reflection followed, and a nearer acquaintance with the convicting and converting power of the Holy Spirit; many prayers out of a contrite and broken heart ascended to my Heavenly Father that for the sake of his Dear Son, our only Saviour, He would forgive and bless me.

"During this period of sorrow for sin, the rapid decline in health of a young woman who was my near neighbor made a strong impression. Being with her all night shortly before her death, I implored my Heavenly Father that the scene might not be forgotten until I, too, was prepared to die. In this state of mental anxiety a Friend seemed casually to speak of a certain tract in which a young

woman queried, 'Why am I kept waiting so long for an evidence of Divine favor?' A voice seemed to say to her, 'Thy Saviour waited long for thee and now it is thy turn to wait for Him.' The Friend remarked, 'I do not know why I should think of this now, or feel like speaking of it.' He little knew that hope sprang in my heart which seemed to penetrate my inmost being, and I felt as though I could wait all the days of the appointed time until my change should come. I often recall this as a watchword to Christian people, to follow up any little motion of duty, as they cannot know the result upon those with whom the Lord may be dealing. The next instance in which the Lord appeared to come suddenly into his temple was the morning after I had first spoken in supplication in the little meeting at London Britain. It seemed as though there was a new heaven and a new earth; as though the leaves of the trees were moving for very gladness. This was in the thirty-fourth year of my age.

"In 1882 a storm at sea brought me into close self-examination, but after a night of alarm and fervent prayer my mind felt so calm and peaceful that all fear was taken away.

"It seems with me to record that often during the times for reading the Bible and religious books in the family or alone, in meetings for worship, either silent or under a favored ministry, there have been times when there seemed nothing to offer to the Lord in return for all his goodness but a sense of poverty and coldness, and absence of all good. But blessed be his holy name forever! He often condescended to break up these clouds of unbelief and hardness of heart, and shining into my sinful soul gave the light of the knowledge of his glory in the face of Jesus Christ."

In her ministry she was frequently led to speak in yearning love to individual conditions, bringing comfort and cheer to the burdened ones, and strengthening the faint-hearted. "Look to God for strength to live," she said on one occasion, "and grace to die will be given."

She expressed herself with brevity and great sweetness, stopping with the simple delivery of her message, which in itself deepened the impression of her words.

"I have been a sinner, but I have loved to preach Christ," was one of her last conscious

expressions; at another time she said, "It is an inexpressible blessing to feel that Jesus is waiting in abounding love to receive me when the right time comes, and I am longing for it. To be forever with the Lord! There is nothing here to compare with it."

Her closing days were filled with like expressions of the faith that she preached, and in which she lived.

Thus by her life of loving, cheerful and obedient service to her Lord and Master, she has left an impressive lesson of the transforming power of Divine grace.

Signed by direction and on behalf of Chesterfield Monthly Meeting, held in joint session, at Trenton, N. J., on the seventh of Second Month, 1911.

GEORGE WOOD,
SUSAN D. IVINS,
Clerks for the day.